

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

June 7, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,


Thank you for visiting Louisiana to witness first-hand the devastation of the ongoing *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. As this spill continues, the needs around the Gulf Coast will increase and every opportunity should be taken by the Federal government to help those citizens. As such, we write today to ask you to release \$20 million in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) emergency contingency fund to help struggling families affected by the oil spill meet their increased energy costs this summer.

As you are aware, the LIHEAP emergency contingency fund was created to provide additional assistance to meet home energy assistance needs during a disaster. Currently, the emergency contingency fund has approximately \$100 million in unallocated funds. These funds will expire at the end of the fiscal year if not spent. Instead of letting these funds expire, we respectfully ask that you authorize the release of \$20 million for allocation to the communities along the Gulf Coast.

Again, thank you for your committed leadership and dedication to helping the Gulf Coast communities during this critical time. We know you are doing and will continue to do whatever it takes to make these communities as resilient as possible throughout this disaster. We are immensely grateful for your leadership and for being a strong advocate for these communities.

Sincerely,

  
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Mary L. Landrien  
U.S. Senator

  
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Charlie Melancon  
U.S. Congressman